was of the Compaſs of a Mans hat about the brims. I then cauſed a Bucket-full of Water to be poured on the fire, by which it was preſently quenched, as well as my companions laughter was ſtopped, who then began to think, the Water did not burn.

I did not perceive the Flame to be diſcolour'd, like that of ſulphureous Bodies, nor to have any manifeſt *ſcent* with it. The Fumes, when they broke out of the Earth, and preſt againſt my hand, were not, to my beſt remembrance, at all hot.

Account of Athanaſii Kircheri *CHINA ILLUSTRATA.*

The *Author* by publiſhing this *Volume*, diſcharges the Promiſe, he had made ſome years ago, that he would do ſo. He acknowledges himſelf much obliged to *Martinius*, and his *Atlas Sinicus*; as alſo to *Michael Boim*, a *Polonian*; *Philippo Marino*, a Jeſuit of *Genoa*; and two other of the ſame Society, *viz. Henry Roth* of *Auſburg*, and *John Gruber*, an *Auſtrian*; whereof the latter went A. 1656. over *Land* from *Rome*, through *Anatolia*, *Armenia*, *Perſia*, *Ormus*, *Cambaja*, and *India*, to *Macao*, the famous Port of *China*, and thence to *Pekin*, the Court of that Empire; whence two years after, he came back to *Rome*, accompanied for a part of the way, by the Jeſuit *Albert Dorville*; traverſing by Land in a manner the whole breadth of *China*, and a great part of the confining *Tartary*, and ſo further, through the *Mogols* Dominions, to *Agra*, where the ſaid *Dorville* dying, the above-mentioned *Henry Roth* ſupplyed his place in accompliſhing this Voyage.

The Book it ſelf, a large *Folio*, is divided into 6. Parts.

The *three* firſt, and the *laſt*, being beſides the deſign of theſe Tracts, we ſhall but glance at, taking only notice; *Firſt*, That they pretend to perſwade the Reader, that *Chriſtianity* was ſpread over all *Aſia* by St. *Thomas* the Apoſtle, and his Succeſſors; and hath been there continued, though not without great *Eclipſes*, to theſe very times. And here the *Chino-Chaldæan Monument*, ſaid to have been erected ſeveral hundred years ſince in *China*, and found out A. 1625. is with great labour aſſerted and interpreted. *Next*, That the Riſe of the Idolatry, in thoſe remote parts, and their different Ceremonies in Worſhip, is confronted with thoſe Ancient ones of *Egypt*. *Laſtly*, that a large Account is given of the *Chineſe* Letters, their Figure, Power, *&c.*

But we haſten to the *Fourth* Book, as belonging to our Sphere.

That

That undertakes to deſcribe the *Curioſities* and *Productions* of *Nature* and *Art*, in *China*. Here, the Author having premiſed ſomething of the advantagious Scituation of *China*, and its *Political* Government; Calculated alſo both the Number of its Inhabitants, (which according to him, amount to 200 Millions of Men, beſides Women, Children, Officers, and Eunuchs;) and the *Annual* Revenue of the Emperour (which he makes to be 150 Millions of Gold-Crowns;) he relateth many conſiderable productions and works of Nature in that Country; As

1. *Mountains* very odd for ſhape, burning, and raiſing of Tempeſts.

2. *Iſles*, to the number of 99. all turned into one, under the ſame extent of ſpace they had, when they were divided by water.

3. *Lakes*, ſome changing Copper into Iron, and cauſing ſtorms, when any thing is caſt into them; and others, ſprung up by Earth-quakes.

4. *Rivers*, whereof one is ſaid to be of a *Blew* colour in Autumn, and for the reſt of the year *Limpid*: Another, to be cold at the top, and very hot beneath.

5. *Fiery Wells*, ſerving to boyl meat over: Perhaps of the ſame Nature with that here in *England*, we deſcribed above.

6. *Plants*, as 1. ſome Roſes, changing their Colour twice a day: Whence the *Author* takes occaſion to ſpeak of that Plant, which grows at *Rome*, in the Garden of one Signior *Corvino*, call'd *Viola Nocturna*, changing its colour ſenſibly, according to the degrees of the riſing and declining of the Sun; deſtitute of all ſmell in the day-time, but having a very fragrant one in the night. 2. A Farinaceous or *Mealy* Tree, ſerving to make Bread of it. 3. *Leaves* of certain Trees, ſtanding on the ſide of a Lake, which falling into the water, become like black *Birds*: which he aſcribeth to the Seminal parts of ſome Eggs, broken on thoſe Trees, fill'd with Birds-neſts. 4. *The*, and its wholeſomeneſs, as to the ſuppreſſing of Vapours, and preventing the Stone. 5. A kind of *Wicker-Tree*, which, as if it were a Rope twiſted by Nature, about an inch thick, creeps along upon the Earth, ſometimes the length of 120 paces, much embaraſſing the way: but ſerving for Cables to Ships, Seats, Hurdles, Beds, Matts; enduring no Vermin; and being cool and refreſhing in hot Seaſons. 6. The *Calamba-Wood*; that it is eſteem'd by ſome to be a kind of *Lentiſcum*

tiſcum, by others, a ſort of *Terebinth*, but of a nobler rank, by vertue of that Climat: which makes the Author ſuggeſt, that care ſhould be taken to have it brought into *Europe*, and carefully cultivated there. 7. *Rhubarb*; of which he obſerves, that, becauſe the vertue of its Roots, if they be expoſed to dry haſtily, ſoon evaporats; therefore the skilfull, lay them upon a Table within doors, and turn them ſeveral times a day, to incorporate and fix the Juyce the better, and then ſtring them and expoſe them to the Wind, in a ſhade, altogether free from the Sunbeams. 8. *Pine-Trees*; of which he ſaith ſome are ſo big, that eight Men can hardly Fathom them. 9. *Canes*, ſo big, that they can make as many Barrels of them, as they have internodes or Joynts. 10. Trees, ſweating a *Gum*, call'd *Cie*, like the droppings of *Turpentine*; which Gum, as long as tis not dryed, emits a very unwholſome and dangerous ſteam. To paſſe by the *Polonie* Tree, producing fruit without any bloſſoms, immediately out of its Trunk, as big as one man can well carry; and that kind of *Fig-Tree*, that bears Leaves as big as to wrap up a man in, *&c.*

7. *Animals*, Here he diſcourſeth of the *Musk-Dear*, and the ſeveral Compoſitions of *Musk*: the *Sea-Horſe*, and *Wild Men*: Of ſome *Birds*, no where ſeen but in *China* (as he thinks) and among them a *Wool-bearing Hen*: Of *Fiſhes*, in Summer flying out of the Sea, ſeeking their food, like *Birds*, and in Autumn returning to the Sea: particularly of a Fiſh of a very exquiſite taſte, called *Hoancio-yu*, or the *Croceous* Fiſh: Further, of *Sea-Cows*, going often aſhore, and fighting with the *Land-Cows*: Of *Bats*, of a vaſt bigneſs, eaten by the *Chineſe* as a delicious meat: Of the *Serpent*, that breeds the *Antidotal* ſtone; whereof he relates many experiments, to verifie the relations of its vertue: Which may invite the *Curator* of the *Royal Society*, to make the like tryal, there being ſuch a ſtone in their *Repoſitory*, ſent them from the *Eaſt Indies*. Again, of *Silk-Worms*, ſpinning *twice* a year, and yielding a double *Crop*.

8. *Foſſils*, where occurs the Relation, 1. Of an odd *Specular* ſtone, repreſenting the figure of the Moon in all her Appearances, when expoſed to Her. 2. Of an *Earth* called *Quei*, very Coſmetick, and abſterſive of all blemiſhes of the face. 3. A *Mineral ceruſſe*, blended of Lead and Antimony. 4. Of *Asbeſtus*, that can be drawn and ſpun; the way of which he affirms to have deſcribed L. 12. *Mundi ſui ſubterranei*. 5. The *Matter that makes Porcellan*, which he affirms to be nothing elſe but a tranſparent Sand,

which

which they ſoak in water, and then reduce to a Maſſe or Dough, and ſo bake it. Not a word of the way of giving it the colour, which, it ſeems, they keep as a great ſecret. They have *Gold* and *Silver Mines*, but dig them not, pretending the danger and trouble in the work, and contenting themſelves with the Filings and Duſt of Gold, which they gather out of the Mud and Sand of Rivers and Fountains.

The *Fifth* Book contains an account of their Works of *Architecture*, and other ingenious Mechanick Arts. Where he ſpeaks, 1. Of their ſtupendious *Bridges*, one of 360 Perches long, and 1 ½ Perch broad, without any Arch, ſtanding upon 300 Pillars, with acute Angles on both oppoſite ſides, all the ſtones being of an equal ſize and ſhape. Another, built from Mountain to Mountain by *one* only Arch, 400 cubits long, 500 cubits high (whence tis called *Pons volans*) from the ſurface of the *Saffrany* River, running under it. This is repreſented, for the ſatisfaction of the Curious, by *Figure I.* *Fig.* I.

2. *Vaſt Towns*, but whoſe Houſes are generally but one Story high, and good reaſon therefore, the Towns ſhould be very big. They are, for the moſt part, built of Timber.

3. *Turrets* very artificiall, whereof one is all of *Porcellan.*

4. The *China Wall*, 300 German Leagues long; 30 Cubits high, 12 (in ſome places 15) Cubits broad, ſo that 12 Horſes can very conveniently go in front on it; built 215 years before *Chriſt*, by the Emperour *Pius*, a brave and moſt Warlike Prince, and diſpatcht in the ſpace of five years; commonly it is defended by a Million of men. A Pattern of this alſo was thought fit to exhibit here, by *Figure II.* *Fig.* II.

5. The *Channel*, that paſſeth from one extream of *China* to the other, having ſome 24 *Sluces*, to retain water, when tis neceſſary; a work of incredible induſtry and extraordinary advantage.

6. *Vaſt Bells*, one whereof, at *Pekin*, weighs 120000 pounds; whereas that of *Erfurd* in *Germany*, hitherto eſteemed to be one of the biggeſt in the World, weighs but 25400. pounds.

As for their ingenious Inventions, *this Author mentions chiefly*,

1. Their *Vernice*, of which he ſets down ſome *Receipts* both for the *Red* and *Black*, together with the way of their Uſe and Application, as he received them both from an *Auguſtinian* Fryar; affirming, that it differs not at all from that of *China*.

2. Their way of *Printing*, invented long before that in *Europe*, giving a large deſcription of the ſame. 3. *Gun-*

3. *Gunpowder*, which he alſo ſaith, they had before the *Europeans*.

4. *Bell-founding*.

Theſe are the principal Subjects treated of in this Book. We paſſe by ſeverall Stories, which ſeem much to require confirmation. *E. g.* That of *Sugar-Canes*, eaten by an Elephant, and taking root in his ſtomach; that of Boys eating Serpents with as much greedineſs, as others eat Eels, or any good meat, *&c.*

Among the *Cutts* of this Volume, there is a *Map* of *Aſia*, not un-inſtructive; delineating the way, the two *Jeſuits* took in their Land-voyage from *Pekin* to *Goa*; as alſo that, which the *Muſcovian* Ambaſſadors, not many years ſince, took in travelling from their Countrey, through the vaſt Tract of the Northern *Tartary*, to *China*, arriving on the *North ſide* of the *China Wall* at *Pekin*: *Item*, The Land-paſſage, heretofore made by *B. Goes* (deſcribed by *Rigaultius*) from *Perſia*, by *Labor* in the *Mogols* Empire, through the Kingdoms of *Cabul*, *Zancut*, *&c.* to *Cataja*, or (which is all one to this *Author*, as it is to ſeveral others) the Province of *Pekin* in *China*. *Item*, The paſſage of *Paulus Venetus* over Land, out of *Europe* into the ſame *China*: and laſtly, That pretended one of St. *Thomas*, out of *Paleſtina*, through *Syria*, *Meſopotamia*, *Perſia*, the *Mogols* Empire, the *Pen-inſul* between the Bays of *Cambaya* and *Bengala*, to *Maliapur*, on the Coaſt of *Coromandel*, where the Name of the *Chriſtians* of St. *Thomas* is ſtill in requeſt.

LONDON,
Printed by *T. R.* for *John Martyn*, Printer to the *Royall Society*, and are to be ſold at the *Bell* a little without Temple-Barr, 1667.

Fig I

A Bridge in China

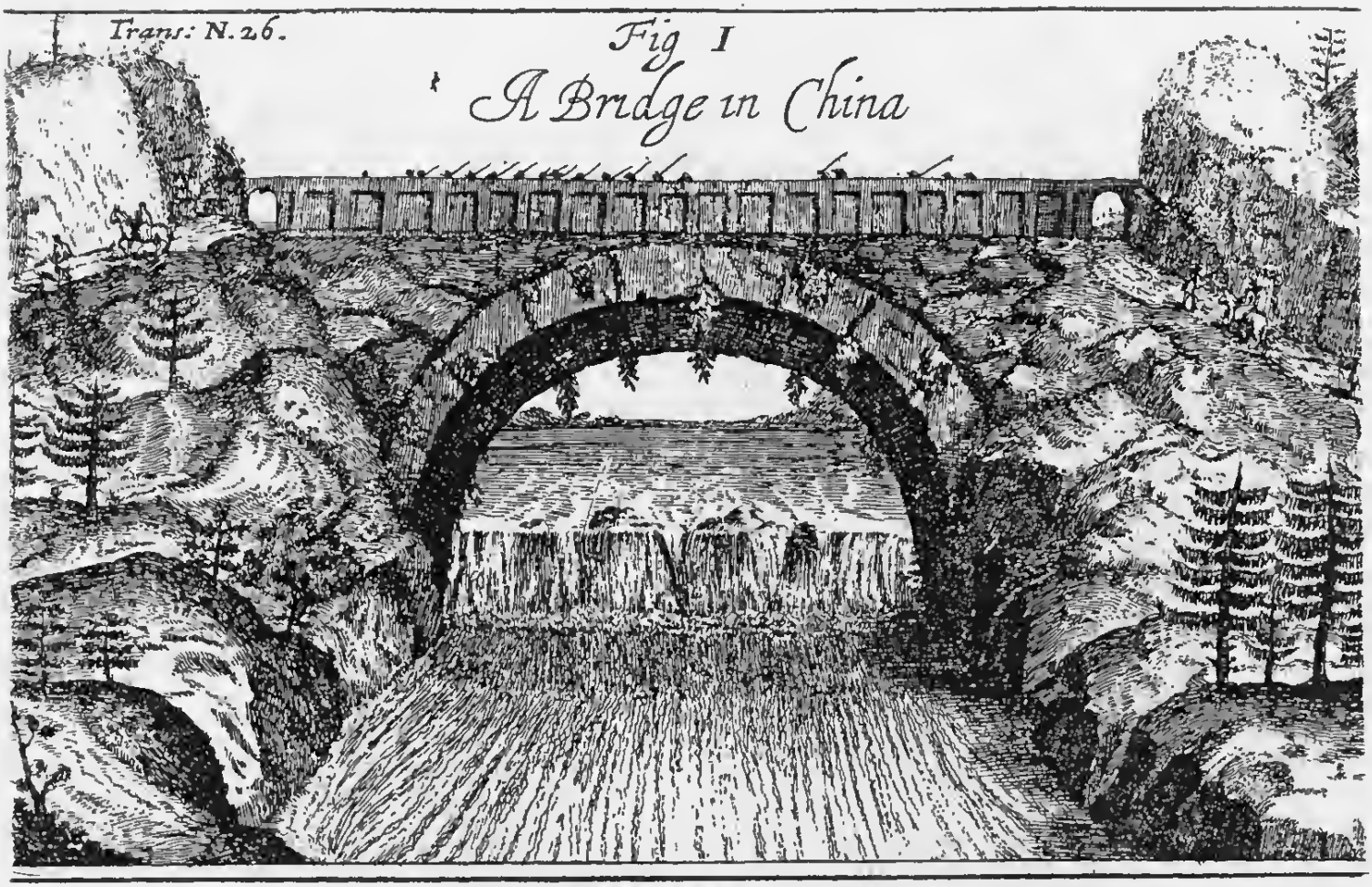

Fig. II.

China-Wall.